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## WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 2 3 4 5	1. A method for providing film grain information comprising the steps of: characterizing an image information stream to provide information indicative of film grain within the image stream, the film grain information including at least one parameter among a set of possible parameters specifying different attributes of the film grain in the image stream; encoding the film grain information for subsequent transmission.
1	2. The method according to claim 1 wherein the set of parameters includes a
2.	plurality of correlation parameters and a plurality of intensity-independent parameters.
1	3. The method according to claim 2 wherein at least one correlation parameter
2	defines a spatial correlation in a perceived pattern of film grain.
1	4. The method according to claim 2 wherein at least one correlation parameter
2	defines a correlation between color layers.
·1	5. The method according to claim 2 wherein at least one correlation parameter
2	defines a temporal correlation resulting from previous processing the image sequence.
1	6. The method according to claim 2 wherein at least one intensity-independent
2	parameters defines an aspect ratio of the film grain.
1	7. The method according to claim 1 wherein at least one parameter defines intensity
2 .	of a random component of the film grain.
1	8. The method according to claim 2 wherein at least one of the intensity-independent
2	parameters defines a color space and blending mode operation used to merge the simulated film
3	grain with the image.
1	9. The method according to claim 1 further comprising the step of transmitting the
2	film grain information transmitted out-of band with respected to transmission of image
3	representative information.

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1 10. The method according to claim 1 further comprising the step of transmitting the 2 film grain information transmitted in band with respected to transmission of image representative 3 information.

- 1 11. The method in accordance with claim 2 where the set of parameters are computed 2 in accordance with a second order auto regression representation of the spatial correlation and a 3 first order regression representation of the cross-color and temporal correlations.
  - 12. The method according to claim 3 wherein the at least one parameter describing the spatial correlation of the grain is established in accordance with a spatial convolution model.
  - 13. The method according to claim 3 wherein the at least one parameter describing the spatial correlation of the grain is obtained from cut frequencies of a filter in the Fourier domain.
  - The method according to claim 1 wherein the encoding step comprises encoding the film grain information according to the ITU-T H.264 video coding standard.

15. Apparatus for providing film grain, comprising:

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first means for characterizing an image information stream to provide information of film grain within the image stream, the information including at least one parameter among a set of possible parameters specifying different attributes of the film grain in the image stream;

second means encoding the film grain information for subsequent transmission.

16. The method apparatus to claim 15 wherein the set of parameters includes a plurality of correlation parameters and a plurality of intensity-independent parameters.

- 17. The apparatus according to claim 16 wherein at least one correlation parameter defines a spatial correlation in a perceived pattern of film grain.
- 1 18. The apparatus according to claim 16 wherein at least one correlation parameter 2 defines a correlation between color layers.
  - 19. The apparatus according to claim 16 wherein at least one correlation parameter defines a temporal correlation resulting from previous processing the image sequence.

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The apparatus according to claim 16 wherein at least one intensity-independent 20. 1 parameters defines an aspect ratio of the film grain. 2

- The apparatus according to claim 15 wherein at least one parameter defines 21. . 1 intensity of a random component of the film grain. 2
  - The apparatus according to claim 16 wherein at least one of the intensity-22. 1 independent parameters defines a color space and blending mode operation used to merge the 2 simulated film grain with the image. 3

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- The apparatus in accordance with claim 16 wherein the first mean computes the 23. set of parameters in accordance with a second order auto regression representation of the spatial correlation and a first order regression representation of the cross-color and temporal correlations.
- The apparatus according to claim 17 wherein the at least one parameter describing 24. 1 the spatial correlation of the grain is established in accordance with a spatial convolution model. 2
- The method according to claim 17 wherein the at least one parameter describing 25. the spatial correlation of the grain is obtained from cut frequencies of a filter in the Fourier 3 domain.
  - The apparatus according to claim 15 wherein second means encodes the film 26. grain information according to the ITU-T H.264 video coding standard.